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### SEXUALITY AND BODY IMAGE: WHAT LINK?

L. Mnif, J. Masmoudi, I. Feki, N. Charfi, I. Bâati, A. Jaoua  
Psychiatry A, Hedi Chaker University Hospital, Sfax, Tunisia

Introduction: Resarches on body image suggest a link with sexuality.

The objective of our study was to investigate Tunisian women´s perceptions of their bodies and its involvement on sexuality.

Methods and patients: A total of 100 Tunisian women were interviewed using a self-administered questionnaire which explores:

- Clinical data: weight, height, hormonal status
- The perception of women to their bodies and their husband's perception.
- The impact of body image on sexual activity

Results: Women´s body image was positive in most cases: The body is seen as female in 94% of cases, young in 76% of cases, physically attractive in 66% and erotic in 51% of cases

Eighty five percent of women were satisfied with their sexual activity. These women report having an erotic body ( $p = 0.009$ ) and source of self-confidence ( $p = 0.002$ ).

Half of women said that their body image allowed them to take the initiative in sexual activity and to have a satisfying desire ( $p = 0.003$ ).

A positive perception of the spouse of a woman´s body influenced significantly the sexual behavior of women: more interest to intimate moments ( $p = 0.001$ ), ability to initiate sexual activity ( $p = 0.014$ ) and sexual satisfaction ( $p = 0.018$ ).

Conclusion: Our study shows the positive role of an adequate perception of body image of women by herself and her spouse about sexuality, through its influence on self-esteem and confidence. It would be interesting to consider these dimensions in any treatment of sexual disorders.